



Civil Marriage Services Information and Planning Package



Civil Marriage Services

General Information & Planning Package Index

Civil Marriage Services	2
Civil Marriage Ceremony Applicant's Check List	3
Legal Requirements:	4
Civil Marriage Ceremony:	4
Enclosed, you will find:	4
Civil Marriage Service Guidelines	6
 Civil Marriage Solemnization Services:	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Civil Ceremony Booking Agreement.....	9
Pre Ceremony Consultation Questionnaire.....	11
Frequently Asked Questions:.....	16
Sample Marriage Ceremonies	18
Simple Marriage Ceremony.....	18
Option #1 Marriage Ceremony.....	20
Option #2 Marriage Ceremony.....	22
Option #4 Marriage Ceremony.....	24
Option Renewal Ceremony	26
Township Council Chambers	28
Township of Wellesley Officiants Grace Kosch & Amy Harron	29

Civil Marriage Ceremony Applicant's Check List

- ☐ Obtain a valid Marriage License in Ontario from the Township office.
- ☐ Complete the Booking Agreement form by contacting the Clerk's Department (see page 4)
- ☐ Complete the Pre-Ceremony Information Questionnaire for review with the Officiant (see page 12)
- ☐ Review Civil Marriage Ceremony Guidelines
- ☐ Determine a location for the Ceremony
- ☐ Make arrangements for 2 witnesses, preferably over the age of 16. (see page 8)
- ☐ Choose one of the three options for Vows for your Civil Marriage Ceremony. (see pages 17 thru 27)
- ☐ Or prepare personal vows, if this option is chosen, to provide to the Officiant at the pre-ceremony meeting.
- ☐ Pay for all required fees in accordance with this package (plus those to the Officiant).
- ☐ Arrange for any music, videographer, photographer and decorations.

REMINDER:

As part of the process to obtain a Marriage License, it is recommended that you complete an application form for a Marriage Certificate well in advance of the date. Marriage Licenses are good for (3) three months. Forms, fees, etc. will be included with your Marriage License or can be obtained on-line at http://www.ontario.ca/en/life_events/married/004444

Fees Related to Civil Marriage Ceremonies

Fees are as per the Township of Wellesley Fees and Charges By-law updated annually. For current rates please see the [Township of Wellesley website](#). Civil Ceremony fees are included in the Administration Schedule "D" under Solemnization. Fees for Civil Marriage Ceremonies include the ceremony fee (business or non-business hours), mileage, license fee, witnesses (if required) and Council Chambers rental (if required). Services related to civil ceremonies are subject to HST, however the marriage license is not HST applicable.

The Township of Wellesley has two qualified Marriage Officers who are designated to perform civil marriages for those eligible and who wish to be married in a civil ceremony.

Legal Requirements:

The Marriage Officers have been trained to solemnize civil marriages. The Township's Civil Marriage Service is a non-denominational and dignified ceremony, which adheres to the requirements of the Marriage Act for the Province of Ontario.

Civil Marriage Ceremony:

Civil Marriage Ceremonies are available in English only. Ceremonies can be conducted in Council Chambers which provides an intimate and formal setting. Please contact the Clerk's Department regarding booking the Council Chambers. Ceremonies can also be performed outside the Municipality subject to the officiant's availability. The Ceremony lasts approximately 20 minutes depending on the vows chosen. The service time booked would be approximately one (1) hour to allow for photo opportunities, etc.

Same day service for a Civil Marriage Ceremony is possible provided a valid Ontario Marriage License is produced and the availability of a Marriage Officer. It is recommended that ceremonies be booked in advance to allow for a pre-ceremony meeting at least three (3) days prior to the Ceremony.

To help make this important day as beautiful, dignified and intimate as possible; this package contains information to assist you with learning more about the Civil Marriage Service, and plan your Ceremony.

Enclosed, you will find:

(a) Civil Marriage Ceremony Guidelines, including applicable fees:

The guidelines provide answers to frequently asked questions with regard to Civil Marriage Ceremonies at the Municipal Office including fees, restrictions, requirements, etc.

(b) Civil Marriage Ceremony Booking Agreement:

A booking is not confirmed until the Agreement is completed and returned to the Municipal Clerk's Office with full payment (certified cheque, cash, or debit).

The ceremony Booking Fee does not include the Marriage License fee of \$125.00 which can also be obtained through the Municipal Clerk's Office.

(c) Pre-Ceremony Information Questionnaire:

This information will assist the Officiant and the Applicants to plan and coordinate the details of the Ceremony.

(d) Sample Vows:

We have included several examples of vows which the Applicants can choose from, including simple vows and two options. There is a provision to allow Applicants to write custom vows for the Service which can be inserted between the mandatory declarations required under Marriage Act.

(e) Frequently Asked Questions

(f) Photos of Council Chambers

(g) Meet the Marriage Officiants

Civil Marriage Service Guidelines

1. Effective January 2017, the Township of Wellesley offers civil marriage services. Two (2) qualified Marriage Officiants have been designated and trained to conduct civil marriages.
2. Civil Marriage ceremonies last approximately 20 (twenty) minutes, depending on the vows chosen. The service time booked would be a maximum of one (1) hour to allow for photo opportunities.
3. Civil Marriages will be conducted in English only and are available to be performed at the Township of Wellesley Municipal Council Chambers, 4805 William Hastings Line, Crosshill. The Officiant is also available to officiate Civil Marriages outside of the Municipality and to perform marriages both weekdays and weekends, subject to availability.

4. FEES: (All fees shall be subject to taxes as applicable.)

- (a)** Payments are to be made at the Municipal Office and can be done by certified cheque, cash, or debit. All fees are non-refundable. All fees are payable in advance at the time of booking and require the execution of a Booking Agreement. A blank booking agreement form is included in this package for your reference.

Fees are as per the Township of Wellesley Fees and Charges By-law updated annually. For current rates please see the [Township of Wellesley website](#). Civil Ceremony fees are included in the Administration Schedule "D" under Solemnization. Fees for Civil Marriage Ceremonies include the ceremony fee (business or non-business hours), mileage, license fee, witnesses (if required) and Council Chambers rental (if required). Services related to civil ceremonies are subject to HST, however the marriage license is not HST applicable.

- (b)** Municipal fees as shown in 4(a) are payable to the Township of Wellesley at the time of booking. Please note the Civil Marriage service does not include the fee for the Marriage License or rental of the Council Chambers.
- (c)** More information regarding the application process for obtaining a Marriage License in Ontario can be obtained by accessing the Government of Ontario website or from the Clerk's Office at the Municipal Office.
- (d)** Changes to date and/or time are permitted at no additional charge, provided the location and Officiant is available and are to be received a minimum of two business days prior to the originally scheduled date and time. No refund will be issued if the Ceremony is cancelled on the day of the Ceremony, or the Applicant(s) fail to appear for the Ceremony.

5. It is recommended that a request for a Civil Marriage Ceremony be received a minimum of three (3) days prior to the date of the Ceremony. The applicants are required to complete the Civil Marriage Booking Agreement and pay the appropriate fee at the Municipal Office. As well, applicants are required to complete a Pre-Ceremony Information Questionnaire with the Marriage Officiant.
6. The Marriage Ceremony lasts approximately 20 minutes. Plan to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the Ceremony to allow time for review of final details.
7. A Pre-ceremony meeting with the Marriage Officiant is required and lasts approximately 30 minutes and is to be scheduled at least three (3) days prior to the ceremony (exception as noted in No. 6 above). Please ensure you have the following available for the Officiants at this meeting:
 - ✓ Both parties are required to be in attendance and provide birth certificates, along with 2 pieces of photo identification (i.e. passport, driver's license);
 - ✓ Bring copy of the Completed Pre-Ceremony Information Questionnaire;
 - ✓ Bring completed copy of Civil Marriage Service Booking Agreement (with receipt);
 - ✓ If specific vows are to be included, please provide a written copy to the Officiant;
 - ✓ Bring a valid Marriage License (with receipt) issued in the Province of Ontario (date issued must be within three (3) months of ceremony).

It is preferred that only the couple meets with the Marriage Officiant during this session.

Please Note:

There is no minimum age requirement for a witness, however, it is suggested they should be at least 16 years of age, as a witness should be able to understand and appreciate what is taking place and be able to give evidence of such at a later date, if required. It is the Applicant's responsibility to provide the witnesses, alternatively, the Clerk's Department can retain the witness at an additional fee of \$25.00 per witness.

The Record of Solemnization of Marriage provided at the ceremony is not a legal record. Approximately 12 weeks after the ceremony you may apply to the Office of the Registrar General to obtain an official Certificate of Marriage. The appropriate form is included with the Marriage License that was issued to the applicants.

8. Alcohol or stimulants are not to be used by the Applicants or their witnesses prior to or during the Ceremony. If the Officiant has reason to believe that alcohol or other stimulants have been used, the Ceremony will not proceed.
9. In order to maintain the dignity of the Ceremony clothing should be appropriate for the occasion.
10. Music will be permitted at certain times throughout the Ceremony, and is to be

determined during the pre-ceremony meeting. When selecting the type of music, consideration should be given to its appropriateness and contribution to the dignity of the occasion.

- 11.** A maximum of 50 guests (not including the wedding party) can be accommodated in the Council Chambers.
- 12.** The taking of photographs will not be permitted during the Ceremony. An opportunity will be provided for photos before the ceremony begins, during the signing of the Register, and when the Ceremony is complete. Videotaping of the Ceremony may be permitted subject to certain limitations at the discretion of the Officiant.
- 13.** No confetti, rice, bubbles etc. are allowed in the Council Chambers or on municipal property. Smoking and/or use of candles are not allowed in or on the Council Chambers property.
- 14.** For use of the Council Chambers, decorations are permitted (e.g. flowers, balloons). They may be placed 15 minutes prior to the Ceremony and removed within 15 minutes of the conclusion of the Ceremony. Use of decorations that are to be affixed to walls or furniture (i.e. tape, staples, nails, etc.) are not permitted.
- 15.** The renter shall be responsible for the conduct and supervision of all persons admitted to Council Chambers and shall see that all regulations pertaining to the event are strictly followed.
- 16.** The Council Chambers may only be used for civil marriage ceremonies conducted by a Township of Wellesley Marriage Officiant. The Chambers will only be made available for a maximum of two (2) hours per ceremony.

Civil Ceremony Booking Agreement

Personal Information on this form is collected under the authority of Section 10 of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25, and the Marriage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.m.3 and will be used for the purpose of this Application only. Questions about this collection should be directed to the Clerk's Office.

Applicant and Co-Applicant Information

To be completed prior to the Booking appointment

Applicant's Name: _____

First name

Last name

Co-Applicant's Name: _____

First name

Last name

Date of Ceremony (mm/dd/yy): _____ Time of Ceremony: __am__pm

Ceremony Location Address: _____

Contact Telephone Number (on date of ceremony): _____ - _____ - _____ (_____) (name)

Anticipated number of attendees _____ Contact Email: _____

A pre ceremony meeting shall be held with the Officiant one week prior to the ceremony. Both applicants must attend this meeting.

Date Marriage License Issued: _____ No: _____
(valid for three months from date of issue).

1. Candles, confetti, rice, bubbles, etc. are not allowed in the Council Chambers or grounds.
2. The Applicants, if renting the Council Chambers for the Civil Marriage Ceremony, hereby consent to defend and indemnify The Corporation of The Township of Wellesley for any loss or damages incurred by their invitees. The applicants agree that The Corporation of The Township of Wellesley will not be held responsible for personal injury or damage, nor for the theft or loss of any personal property of anyone attending on the invitation of the Applicants.
3. The Applicants shall be responsible for the conduct and supervision of all persons admitted to the Council Chambers and shall see that all regulations pertaining to the event are strictly followed.
4. The Municipal Council Chambers may only be used for civil marriage ceremonies conducted by the Township Clerk or designate(s).
5. Due to the civil nature of the service, the ceremony shall not refer to any particular or identifiable religious connotations or traditions.

6. All exits must be kept free from obstruction in case of fire.
7. The Council Chambers is available for a maximum of two hours only, decorating is permitted.
8. Music deemed by the Officiate to be appropriate to the occasion will be allowed.
9. Changes to date and/or time are allowed at no additional charge, provided that the venue and the Officiate are available. Requests to change the date and/or time must be received a minimum of 48 hours prior to the originally scheduled date and time.
10. A booking is not confirmed until the Agreement is completed and returned to the Clerk's Office with full payment.
11. No refund will be issued if the ceremony is cancelled less than 48 hours prior to the scheduled date and time, or the Applicant(s) do not show up for the ceremony, or if the Applicant(s) or witnesses are under the influence of alcohol or other stimulants (in the sole opinion of the Officiate).
12. The Township does not have private dressing facilities for the bridal party.
13. Please note that the Marriage Officiant is not permitted to accept gifts of any type. It is our pleasure to take part in your special day!
14. Following the Ceremony, you and your spouse will receive:
 - a) Copy of your vows;
 - b) Record of Solemnization of Marriage. (Please note that this document is not a Marriage Certificate.)

We recommend that you apply for a Marriage Certificate following your wedding, as some organizations require it as proof that your marriage was registered by the Province. Please wait approximately 10-12 weeks after the ceremony to apply. Application can be made online at www.serviceontario.ca.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Co-Applicant's Signature

Date

Pre Ceremony Consultation Questionnaire

Applicant's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Email: _____

Co-Applicant's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Email: _____

Marriage License No.: _____ Date Issued: _____

Month / Day / Year

Identification: (2 pc. of photo ID issued in Ontario required from each applicant will be required during booking appointment).

Applicant Occupation: _____

Co-Applicant Occupation: _____

Ceremony Information:

Ceremony Date: _____ Time: _____

Month / day / year

Ceremony Location Address: _____

Witness (for applicant):

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Witness (for co-applicant):

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

For each of the following questions please circle either a yes or no (as applicable)

Vows: *(circle one)*

Options:	Simple	Yes	No
	Option #1	Yes	No
	Option #2	Yes	No
	Option # 1 or #2 (with Personal vows)	Yes	No

If you plan to incorporate personalized vows, the Officiant must review the text prior to the service to ensure that it is appropriate to the dignity of the occasion. Due to the civil nature of the service, the ceremony shall not refer to any particular or identifiable religious connotations or traditions. Please bring your proposed vows with you to the consultation.

Acknowledgement of Children? Yes No

Name(s) of Children: _____

How do you envision your children to be included in the ceremony?

Will anyone be giving an Applicant away? Yes No

If so, name and relationship: _____

Will rings be exchanged during the Ceremony? Yes No
 How many? One Two

Will there be a flower girl? Yes No

Name and age: _____

Will there be a ring bearer? Yes No

Name and age: _____

How do you wish to be introduced at the end of the ceremony?
 (i.e. Mr. & Mrs. Smith/Mr. & Mrs. John Smith/Jane & John Smith)

Do you want your ceremony to honour/mention any family member or friend that could not be at your ceremony? List names below

Will there be a Photographer? Yes No

Will there be a Videographer? Yes No

If so, what type? (ie: tape / CD) _____

What equipment is required: _____

Use of microphone system required: Yes No

Will there be decorations? Yes No

Type of decorations: _____

Anticipate Number of Guests (maximum 50, not including wedding party): _____

Are there any other additions to the Ceremony? Yes No

If yes, please identify (attach typewritten copy) _____

Additional comments or requests: _____

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The applicants acknowledge that they have read the Township of Wellesley's Civil Marriage Guidelines as attached hereto and shall adhere to the requirements established with respect to the provision of civil marriage services by the Township of Wellesley.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Co-Applicant's Signature

Date

**Civil Marriage Services
Pre-Ceremony Information Questionnaire**

To be completed by the Applicants and reviewed with the Officiant at the Pre-Ceremony Meeting with the Township of Wellesley

Office Use Only			
Name of Officiant:		Date and Amount Paid:	
Ceremony Date:		Signature of Clerk's Office Representative:	
Marriage License Number:		Date:	

Personal information contained on this form is collected pursuant to the Municipal Act, 2001, and will be used for the purpose of providing the civil marriage solemnization services. Questions with respect to the collection of personal information should be addressed to the Municipal Clerk, Township of Wellesley, 4639 Lobsinger Line, St. Clements, Ontario (519) 699-3946

He Said/She Said

For Bride & Groom-to-be

Questions about the Couple

Make your ceremony exactly what you want, and not the stuffy boring Ceremony that everyone has seen in the past.

Try to be as open as possible. I promise that I will not divulge anything embarrassing or potentially hurtful to someone else during your ceremony! However, the more information I have, the more I will be able to paint a meaningful picture of who you and your partner are. You don't have to answer every one of the questions below, but it gives you a sense of what you can write about for me. Feel free to add additional Q&A lines if needed, if you have something you really want to share that is not listed.
Do not include items that you do not want disclosed

How did you meet?
When was your first date and what was it like?
Do you have any children or pets?
When did you "know" that they were the right person?
When did you first say, "I love you?"
What does the commitment of marriage mean to you?
How did you get engaged?
What are your nicknames for each other?
What's something quirky or unique about your relationship?
How has your partner made you a better person?

What do you like to do together? (keep it rated PG)
What type of music do you like or favorite band?
What is your favorite food?
What is your favorite movie and/or TV Show?
Do you have any "Pet Peeves"?
How does your partner make you feel?
Who is your Hero?
How would you describe your relationship?
How do you describe your fiancé to people who are hearing about him/her for the first time?
What, if anything, do you expect to change about your relationship after this wedding (other than more free time, of course)?
What are you most looking forward to about your life together, after this wedding?
What do you see when you think about your longer-term future together?
Anything Else?

Use an additional piece of paper for additional space if needed.

I know some of the questions are intense. As I said, you do not have answer all of them. This is meant to be helpful to me and not to make you feel at all uncomfortable. Your answers will be very helpful in preparing your wedding ceremony. Remember, do not show your answers to each other – send them only back to me! I will save a copy of your answers in your file.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. What documents are needed for a Civil Marriage Service?

Before meeting with the Marriage Officiant you should have completed and paid for your Ontario Marriage License (valid for three (3) months following its date of issue), which you should show the Officiant. You should have also completed the Booking Agreement Form with staff at the Municipal Office. The Pre-Ceremony Information Questionnaire you will complete during the pre-ceremony meeting with the Marriage Officiant. Both forms are included in this package.

2. Who may officiate at our wedding?

For a Civil Marriage, only one (1) of the Township's appointed Officiants may perform the ceremony.

3. What would it cost to be married at my home on the lake on Saturday?

(All fees are non-refundable and subject to applicable taxes.)

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4. Does the Municipality offer "same day service" for a Ceremony?

Same day service for a Civil Marriage Ceremony is possible provided a valid Ontario Marriage License is produced, the availability of a Marriage Officiant, and the location. It is recommended that ceremonies be booked in advance to allow for a pre-ceremony meeting at least three (3) days prior to the Ceremony.

5. Where can we hold our wedding?

Our Marriage Officiants can perform a ceremony at the Township Council Chambers or at a location of your choice, based on officiant and location availability.

6. Do we have to purchase our Ontario License in the Township of Wellesley to be married in Wellesley?

No. You may purchase an Ontario License anywhere in the Province of Ontario to be married anywhere in the Province of Ontario.

7. Are witnesses required for a Civil Marriage Ceremony?

Yes, all couples must have two (2) witnesses, over the age of 16, present during the ceremony.

8. May we include readings from the Bible or have a Blessing at our ceremony?

While the Marriage Officiant may not perform any type of religious ceremony in keeping with the spirit of the Ontario Marriage Act which requires civil ceremonies to be “non- denominational”, couples may wish to have someone other than the Officiant provide a reading or a blessing.

9. Will Marriage Officiants marry same-sex partners?

Yes, there is a constitutional requirement in Ontario to issue marriage licenses to, and solemnize civil marriages of same-sex couples.

10. Who registers our Civil Marriage?

After the ceremony all parties must sign the Record of Solemnization (to be retained by the couple) and the Statement of Marriage, both are included on the license. The Marriage Officiant will ensure all documentation is forwarded to the Office of the Registrar General in Thunder Bay within two (2) business days to register your marriage with the Province of Ontario.

Sample Marriage Ceremonies

The following are samples of ceremonies that may be used in its entirety or in part

Simple Marriage Ceremony

SOLEMNIZER:

We are gathered at _____ for the purpose of joining in the legal state of matrimony (this man and this woman / these two people), under the authority given and provided by the Government of the Province of Ontario.

Marriage is not to be entered upon thoughtlessly or irresponsibly but with a due and serious understanding and appreciation of the ends for which it is contracted.

Therefore, if there is any one present who can show just cause why these two persons may not be lawfully joined together in matrimony they should now declare it or hereafter remain silent.

REPEAT (Person # 1)

I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I, _____ may not be joined in matrimony to _____

REPEAT (Person # 2)

I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I, _____ may not be joined in matrimony to _____

REPEAT (Person #1)

I call upon these persons here present, to witness that I, _____ do take you, _____ to be my Lawful wedded (husband/wife/spouse/partner).

REPEAT (Person #2)

I call upon these persons here present, to witness that I, _____ do take you, _____ to be my Lawful wedded (husband/wife/spouse/partner).

SOLEMNIZER:

I, _____ by the virtue of the powers vested in me by the Marriage Act, do hereby pronounce you _____ and _____ to be (husband and wife / married as partners in life). *(you may kiss)*

May you enjoy length of days, fulfillment of hopes and peace and contentment of mind, as you day by day live and fulfill the terms of this covenant you have made with one another.

(After signing the Register, Solemnizer announces) May I introduce to you the married couple.

Option #1 Marriage Ceremony

SOLEMNIZER:

We are gathered here today at _____ for the purpose of joining in the legal state of matrimony (this man and this woman / these two people), under the authority given and provided by the Government of the Province of Ontario.

Marriage is not to be entered upon thoughtlessly or irresponsibly but with a due and serious understanding and appreciation of the ends for which it is contracted.

Therefore, if there is any one present who can show just cause why these two persons may not be lawfully joined together in matrimony they should now declare it or hereafter remain silent.

REPEAT (Person # 1)

I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I, _____ may not be joined in matrimony to _____

REPEAT (Person # 2)

I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I, _____ may not be joined in matrimony to _____

REPEAT (Person #1)

I call upon these persons here present, to witness that I, _____ do take you, _____ to be my Lawful wedded (husband/wife/spouse/partner). For better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, so long as we both shall live.

REPEAT (Person #2)

I call upon these persons here present, to witness that I, _____ do take you, _____ to be my Lawful wedded (husband/wife/spouse/partner). For better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, so long as we both shall live.

RINGS:

(Make provision for ring bearer)

SOLEMNIZER to Person # 1

Please place the ring on the third finger of _____'s left hand saying after me:

"This ring I give in token of the covenant made this day between us"

SOLEMNIZER to Person # 2

Please place the ring on the third finger of _____'s left hand saying after me:

"This ring I give in token of the covenant made this day between us"

SOLEMNIZER:

I, _____ by the virtue of the powers vested in me by the Marriage Act, do hereby pronounce you _____ and _____ to be (husband and wife / married as partners in life). *(you may kiss)*

May you enjoy length of days, fulfillment of hopes and peace and contentment of mind, as you day by day live and fulfill the terms of this covenant you have made with one another.

(After signing the Register, Solemnizer announces) May I introduce to you the married couple.

Option #2 Marriage Ceremony

SOLEMNIZER:

We are gathered here at _____ for the purpose of joining in the legal state of matrimony (this man and this woman / these two people), under the authority given and provided by the Government of the Province of Ontario.

Marriage is not to be entered upon thoughtlessly or irresponsibly but with a due and serious understanding and appreciation of the ends for which it is contracted.

Therefore, if there is any one present who can show just cause why these two persons may not be lawfully joined together in matrimony they should now declare it or hereafter remain silent.

PERSONAL VOWS: Person # 1 PERSONAL VOWS: Person # 2

REPEAT (Person # 1)

I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I, _____ may not be joined in matrimony to _____

REPEAT (Person # 2)

I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I, _____ may not be joined in matrimony to _____

REPEAT (Person #1)

I call upon these persons here present, to witness that I, _____ do take you, _____ to be my Lawful wedded (husband/wife/spouse/partner). For better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, so long as we both shall live.

REPEAT (Person #2)

I call upon these persons here present, to witness that I, _____ do take you, _____ to be my Lawful wedded (husband/wife/spouse/partner). For better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, so long as we both shall live.

RINGS:

(Make provision for ring bearer)

SOLEMNIZER to Person # 1

Please place the ring on the third finger of _____'s left hand saying after me:

"This ring I give in token of the covenant made this day between us"

SOLEMNIZER to Person # 2

Please place the ring on the third finger of _____'s left hand saying after me:

"This ring I give in token of the covenant made this day between us"

SOLEMNIZER:

I, _____ by the virtue of the powers vested in me by the Marriage Act, do hereby pronounce you _____ and _____ to be (husband and wife / married as partners in life). *(you may kiss)*

May you enjoy length of days, fulfillment of hopes and peace and contentment of mind, as you day by day live and fulfill the terms of this covenant you have made with one another.

(After signing the Register, Solemnizer announces) May I introduce to you the married couple.

Option #4 Marriage Ceremony

SOLEMNIZER: This couple has come here today to be joined in marriage. The essence of this commitment is the taking of another person in his or her entirety as a lover, companion and friend. It is therefore a decision not to be entered into lightly but rather with great consideration and respect for both the other person and oneself.

GROOM and **BRIDE** have invited us to share in this celebration as they affirm their love before us, pledge their faith to one another and enter into the joys and privilege of marriage. Love is one of the highest experiences we human beings can have and it can add depth of meaning to our lives. The day-to-day companionship, the pleasure in doing things together or in doing separate things but exchanging experiences, is a continuous and central part of what two people who love each other can share.

Marriage was established that two people might have life-long companionship, that natural instincts and affections might be fulfilled in mutual love, that children should enjoy the security of family life, love and home.

Marriage symbolizes the intimate sharing of two lives, yet this sharing must not diminish but enhance the individuality of each partner. A happy marriage is one which is continually developing while growing in understanding of the other person. By growing together in love, it is possible to share not only the joys of life but the burdens of sorrow as well.

GROOM and **BRIDE** your marriage is intended to join you in a relationship so intimate and personal, it will change your whole being. It offers you the hope and indeed the promise of a love that is true and mature. To attain such love, you will have to commit yourselves to each other freely and gladly for the sake of a richer and deeper life together.

If any person can show just cause why they may not be joined in marriage, let him speak now or forever hold his peace.

SOLEMNIZER to GROOM: *Repeat after me, please.*

"I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I may not be joined in matrimony to_____."

SOLEMNIZER to BRIDE: *Repeat after me, please.*

"I do solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I may not be joined in matrimony to _____"

SOLEMNIZER to GROOM: Do you take _____ to be your lawful wedded wife?
Then repeat after me.

"I call upon these persons here present to witness that I, _____ do take you
_____ to be my lawful wedded wife.

To laugh with you in joy

To grieve with you in sorrow To grow with you in love
To be faithful to you alone As long as we both shall live

Do you accept?"

SOLEMNIZER to BRIDE: Do you take _____ to be your lawful wedded husband? Then repeat after me:

"I call upon these persons here present to witness that I, _____ do take you _____ to be my lawful wedded husband.

To laugh with you in joy
To grieve with you in sorrow To grow with you in love
To be faithful to you alone As long as we both shall live
Do you accept?"

SOLEMNIZER to GROOM: *Repeat after me, please.*

"This ring is my precious gift to you as a measure of my love and as a sign that from this day forward your every breath shall be surrounded by my love."

SOLEMNIZER to BRIDE *Repeat after me, please.*

"This ring is my precious gift to you as a measure of my love and as a sign that from this day forward your every breath shall be surrounded by my love."

I, **SOLEMNIZER**, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Marriage Act, do hereby pronounce you _____ and _____ to be husband and wife.

You may kiss.

As you enter upon your marriage, consider that the honour of the nation and its people is based upon the quality of its homes, and the future of the nation is in the hands of the issue of each home.

Let your home be a haven of peace in the middle of a busy and business like world; let your relationship be one of complete truth and understanding between you both; respect the confidences of your partner in this marriage, and consider that as the work give nothing freely, neither will your marriage yield you more than you give into it.

May you enjoy length of days, fulfillment of hopes, and peace and contentment of mind, as you day by day live and fulfill the terms of this covenant you have made with one another.

After signing of the Register, officiant announces: May I introduce to you the married couple.

Option Renewal Ceremony

Welcome & Opening

Good relationships never stop growing. Like fine wine, they get better with age. Groom and Bride, you have now been married _years and through all the years of your journey together, you have now come to this beautiful setting, so that you could renew your vow and commitment of love for each other.

No marriage is perfect. As you continue in this union, you already know that it will continue to take a lot of love and work to keep your relationship an ongoing success.

Many couples tend to think of marriage as a 50/50 proposition. Actually, the best relationships are 90/10. If you both will give 90% and take only 10%, you will have a formula likely to continue to bring both of you happiness for a lifetime.

As you continue on your journey together, I ask you to remember this advice: Let your

love be stronger than your anger.

Learn the wisdom of compromise, for it is better to bend than to break. Believe the best of your beloved rather than the worst.

Confide in your partner and ask for help when you need it.

Remember that true friendship is the basis for any lasting relationship.

Give your spouse the same courtesies and kindnesses you bestow on your friends. Say "I love you" every day.

You may wish to add a reading or song here.

Vows:

Groom and Bride, I remind you that marriage is a precious gift; a lifelong dedication to love and a daily challenge to love one another more fully and more freely.

With this understanding, do you Groom, continue to take Bride as your beloved wife?

Will you continue to be a tender, faithful husband?

Will you continue to love and cherish her, in sickness and in health, for richer for poorer, for better for worse, and keep yourself only unto her?

With this understanding, do you Bride; continue to take Groom as your beloved husband? Will you continue to be a tender, faithful wife?

Will you continue to love and cherish him, in sickness and in health, for richer for poorer, for better for worse, and keep yourself only unto him?

You may wish to add a reading or song here.

Rings

Groom and Bride have rings as the outward symbols of your ongoing commitment to each other.

From earliest times, the ring has been a symbol of wedded love. An unbroken and never-ending circle symbolizes a commitment to love that is also never ending.

Groom, hold Bride's hand, touch her ring, symbolically giving it to her again, and say to her these words.

From this day on, I recommit myself to you, and this ring is a symbol of my pledge.

Bride, hold Groom's hand, touch his ring, symbolically giving it to him again, and say to him these words.

From this day on, I recommit myself to you, and this ring is a symbol of my pledge.

Let these rings serve not as locks binding you together, but as keys, unlocking the secrets of your hearts for each other to know, and thus bringing you closer together forever.

Closing

May the sun bring you new energy by day. May the moon softly restore you by night.
May the rain wash away your worries.
And may you live the days of your lives in peace, love, and happiness.

Pronouncement:

Groom and Bride, having witnessed your vows of affirmation with all who are assembled here, and by the authority of love itself, I do affirm that you have expressed your desire to continue as husband and wife.

Kiss:

You may seal your vows with a kiss.

Presentation:

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my honor to present to you, once again as husband and wife: Groom and Bride!

Township Council Chambers



The Council Chambers may be rented
for civil ceremonies.
The Council Chambers holds 50
guests and is accessible
This building is the oldest “working”
Council Chambers within the Region of
Waterloo.



Township of Wellesley Officials Grace Kosch & Amy Harron

Grace Kosch, Municipal Clerk



Amy Harron, Deputy Clerk



Grace and Amy seek to assist all couples in making their wedding day special and to fulfill their personal plans and wishes.

Grace and Amy are warm, welcoming, and professional people who will do their utmost to ensure the right ambiance at every wedding they conduct.